

ISA Database, Tools, & Services

Interoperability and Logistics
Readiness IPT

September 2001

Interoperability and Logistics Readiness IPT ISA Database, Tools, & Services

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The Interoperability and Logistics Readiness IPT determined that the ASSIST database is substantially incomplete and not current. Both data and text of International Standardization Agreements (ISAs), which are based on partially completed status reports issued by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the American British Canadian Australian Armies (ABCA), and the Air Standards Coordinating Committee (ASCC), are incomplete and outdated. No documents from AUSCANNZUKUS or Combined Communications Electronics Board (CCEB) are in the ASSIST database. In many cases, U.S. representatives to ISA bodies have not submitted this information. The status reports show ISAs that range from

- υ up-to-date data and text,
- υ not up-to-date data and text,
- υ canceled, but shown as active in ASSIST, and
- υ not in ASSIST.

TASKING

The Interoperability and Logistics Readiness IPT was tasked to develop and implement a plan for populating ISA data elements in ASSIST and making full text available to customers. The plan needs to address (1) bringing the data and full text up-to-date, and (2) establishing a process to keep the ASSIST up-to-date. Ideally, this process would be done through agreement with the ISA development bodies to provide periodic updates directly to the Defense Automated Printing Service (DAPS) electronically.

CURRENT SITUATION

The IPT has obtained up-to-date index listings from NATO (AAP-4), ABCA, and ASCC; AUSCANNZUKUS is not participating at this time; and we have not started working with CCEB. We have completed the analysis of NATO Standardization Agreements (STANAGS) and Allied Publications (APs), the ABCA Quadrapartite Standardization Agreements (QSTAGs), and the ASCC Air Standards, Advisory Publications, and Information Publications. We have provided

our up-to-date reports to ABCA and ASCC and requested that they provide the missing data elements and text to DAPS. We have taken the following actions with NATO:

- υ Compared the list of needed STANAGs and APs with the documents posted on the International Military Standardization Work Management System (IMS-WMS) database and found that about a third of the missing documents are already posted on IMS-WMS. We now have a contract to develop a way the documents can be posted on ASSIST from IMS-WMS and to provide quarterly updates from IMS-WMS to ASSIST.
- υ Provided the reports to the U.S. Mission and U.S. Air Board and Navy Board Delegates at NATO Headquarters and asked for their assistance in obtaining missing documents and data. The Air Board delegate is in process of providing numerous e-versions of Army Board documents, and even some Conference of National Armaments Directors (CNAD) documents on CD-ROMs. (Virtually all the Air Board documents are on the IMS-WMS system; an increasing number of the Navy Board documents are being posted on IMS-WMS). The U.S. Mission has started searching for and providing copies of STANAGs/APs from CNAD groups.
- υ Reviewed the NATO Standardization Document Database (NSDD) available on MINERVA (the intranet system within NATO HQs), and found that about 5 percent of the STANAGs and APs have been posted. We were unable to determine a target date when the remainder of the documents will be posted. This resource likely will have limited usefulness for some time, but eventually could be used to provide periodic updates.
- υ Determined that the Central U.S. Registry has copies of many STANAGs, and will provide limited numbers of copies upon request. The Registry suggested it is better to request copies through a sub-registry such as the one for DLA. We also can make application to receive newly promulgated STANAGs automatically through the sub-registry. Alternatively, the Defense Standardization Program Office (DSPO) could apply to be a sub-registry, but Departmental Standardization Office (DepSO) personnel would need to go through security checks and be monitored continually.

The IPT has almost completed a report on ABCA Quadrapartite Advisory Publications (QAPs). The report on CCEB has not been started.

The data elements used when submitting ISAs to DAPS need revising to clarify information needed and to incorporate several data changes (e.g., not restricting to ISAs ratified by the United States, more detailed information on amendments and working parties, data needed on Allied Publications).

AN OPPORTUNITY

The recommendations described below could be implemented along with the recommendations of Tab D1-09 on International Standardization Agreements of the Electronic Document Development, Coordination, and Maintenance IPT.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The DSPO, working with the Military Departments and Defense Agencies, should consider taking the following actions:

- υ Complete a comparison of ASSIST with ABCA and CCEB indices and provide the resulting lists to ABCA and CCEB Points of Contact (POCs) with a request to provide updated data and documents, as well as periodic updates;
- υ Provide the documents already collected to DAPS for posting on ASSIST;
- υ Complete development of revised data elements and provide them to DAPS;
- υ Continue to collect missing STANAGs/APs and periodically obtain updates by the following means:
 - Oversee implementation and completion of contract with Integic to copy data and documents from IMS-WMS to ASSIST and develop process for quarterly updates,
 - Work with the sub-registry at the Defense Logistics Agency to obtain copies of needed STANAGs/APs, but somewhat as a last resort source; also consider establishment of sub-registry for the DSP to provide periodic updates to ASSIST,
 - Continue to monitor development of the NATO Standardization Document Database to see what role that it could play in providing periodic updates to DAPS,
 - Contact ISA committees to obtain data and documents for those ISAs not obtained by above means. This would be done either by contacting committee directly or by going through POCs in related Military Departments and Defense Agencies.
 - Make a special effort to obtain and post APs because few of them are listed, and APs often provide the details to implement the related STANAGs.

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- υ Provide the missing data elements for documents already posted on ASSIST,
 - υ Encourage the Military Departments and Defense Agencies to implement Chapter 6 of DoD 4120.24-M, especially C6.9 on Indexing and Distribution,
 - υ Develop a list of the still-missing ISAs after all the above efforts; annually audit a sample of ASSIST ISAs to ensure accuracy and currency,
 - υ Put NATO AAP-4 and other ISA listings on ASSIST for research purposes,
 - υ Establish any appropriate relationship with the Army's International Agreements Tracking System,
 - υ Meet again with AUSCANNZUKUS to determine future participation, and
 - υ Report progress to ISA panel at the November 26–29, 2001, DSP Conference.